

# Online Resources

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Whether you are looking for ready-to-go classroom activities, online metronomes, translations of lyrics, karaoke, music history, or misheard lyrics, you can find a website to help. Several of these websites are referred to in *New Ways in Teaching with Music*.

The websites here provide ideas and inspiration for the classroom; you can find lyrics here, among other places:

- AZLyrics ([www.azlyrics.com](http://www.azlyrics.com))
- LetsSingIt ([www.letsingit.com](http://www.letsingit.com))
- MetroLyrics ([www.metrolyrics.com](http://www.metrolyrics.com))
- SongLyrics ([www.songlyrics.com](http://www.songlyrics.com))

To find lyrics that may be less offensive to a class with students from diverse backgrounds, search for “radio edit” and the name of the song or artist you are looking for.

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**AllMusic** ([www.allmusic.com/genres](http://www.allmusic.com/genres)), mentioned by contributor Elena Shvidko in her activity “Don’t Mess with Genres!,” provides information about musical genres from avant-garde to classical, including photos, musicians’ profiles, and song lists.

**American English** ([americanenglish.state.gov](http://americanenglish.state.gov)) is a website of the U.S. State Department. A search for “music” or a click on the Resources tab will bring up dozens of articles, MP3s, videos, and activities to be used for teaching and learning English and American culture. Sing Out Loud: American Rhythms ([americanenglish.state.gov/resources/american-rhythms](http://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/american-rhythms)) provides free online music and activities for teaching American English with music.

**ArtsEdge** ([artsedge.kennedy-center.org](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org)) is an extensive educational resource from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The website includes detailed lesson plans, activities, videos, and more on a variety of arts-related topics. Although material is geared for Grades K–13, the material is not childish in nature.

**BBC Desert Island Disks** ([www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnmr](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnmr)) is a popular BBC radio program that asks famous people what music they would take with them to a desert isle. This program is the basis for the “Desert Island Songs” activity by contributor Peter McDonald.

**Breaking News English** ([breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)) has recent media articles on a broad range of topics. Scroll down to “search for more lessons” and search for “music and language” or other specific topics to access oral texts at a variety of levels and a wide array of creative activities to accompany the text.

**The British Council** website ([www.teachingenglish.org.uk/search/site/music](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/search/site/music)) contains dozens of articles on ways to use songs in the language classroom.

“Using Music in the Adult ESL Classroom,” by Kristin Lems ([www.cal.org/caela/esl\\_resources/digests/music.html](http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/digests/music.html)), on the **Center for Adult English Language Acquisition** website provides a quick look at research, teaching ideas by skill area, and suggestions for choosing music.

**Digital Trends** ([www.digitaltrends.com/music/best-free-and-legal-music-download-sites/#:t0NXQxvLNRdFY](http://www.digitaltrends.com/music/best-free-and-legal-music-download-sites/#:t0NXQxvLNRdFY)) is a website that reports on all things digital, including a list of sites for free legal downloading.

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**Efl.net** ([www.efl.net](http://www.efl.net)), mentioned by Rebecca Palmer, includes songs, stories, and other audio and video materials. The site allows users to read as they listen, look up words, and repeat portions as often as needed.

Contributor Kevin McCaughey's website, **English Teachers Everywhere** ([www.ets everywhere.com/category/valuable-and-unusual-listening-tasks](http://www.ets everywhere.com/category/valuable-and-unusual-listening-tasks)), includes dozens of educational songs for everything from action listening games to vocabulary list songs.

**ESL Lounge** ([www.esl-lounge.com/songstop.php](http://www.esl-lounge.com/songstop.php)) includes lists of song lyrics arranged alphabetically by title. Some of the songs are accompanied by topics or skills the songs can be used to develop, as well as comments, worksheets, and ideas for activities.

**ESL Through Music** ([www.forefrontpublishers.com/eslmusic](http://www.forefrontpublishers.com/eslmusic)) is maintained by Suzanne Medina, professor emerita at California State University. The site includes classroom activities, materials, and articles.

**How Music Works** with Howard Goodall ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnbOWi6f\\_IM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnbOWi6f_IM)) is a TV series explaining how music works.

**Isabel's ESL Site** ([www.isabelperez.com/songs](http://www.isabelperez.com/songs)) includes the lyrics to dozens of popular songs along with a variety of activities to accompany them. Although it is written with native speakers of Spanish in mind, most activities would work with any student group. Meaghan Harding mentions this site in "Karaoke Presentations."

**Just Dance** ([www.youtube.com/user/justdancegame/featured](http://www.youtube.com/user/justdancegame/featured)) is a website with dancing videos for incorporating movement into a vocabulary lesson.

**Lessonstream** by Jamie Keddie ([lessonstream.org/materials/songs](http://lessonstream.org/materials/songs)) contains lesson plans organized by language level, learner type, length or aim of lesson, type of activity, topic, and type of material, such as songs. It is mentioned in Chris Walklett's "Lady Mondegreen Rides Again" activity.

**LyricsMode** ([www.lyricsmode.com](http://www.lyricsmode.com)) is different from other lyrics sites in that users are able to post their own interpretations of the meaning of the lyrics.

**LyricsTraining** ([lyricstraining.com](http://lyricstraining.com)) features popular music videos with karaoke-like games at four levels designed for language learners. It is mentioned in Rebecca Palmer's "Sing Our Song."

**Lyricstranslate.com** ([lyricstranslate.com](http://lyricstranslate.com)) provides translations of lyrics from almost any language into almost any other language, including Croatian, Urdu, Latin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Italian, English, and many more.

Media for Task-Based Language Learning ([nathangalster.wix.com/medialanguage](http://nathangalster.wix.com/medialanguage)) includes an example of a musical bio, as explained in Nathan Galster's "My Musical Autobiography" activity, as well as other suggested activities for using music in the language classroom.

**Metronome Online** ([www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com)) is an easy-to-use online metronome for speaking practice as suggested by Ildiko Porter-Szucs in "Learning to the Beat: Improving Speaking Fluency and Pronunciation With a Metronome."

**Music Genres List** ([www.musicgenreslist.com/about-music-genre-site](http://www.musicgenreslist.com/about-music-genre-site)) is mentioned in Elena Shvidko's "Don't Mess With Genres" activity. It includes not only a comprehensive list of musical genres with audio examples, but also a blog and opportunity to vote for your favorite genre.

**New Tongue** ([www.newtongue.com/lyrics-worksheets](http://www.newtongue.com/lyrics-worksheets)) is a website for people learning not only English, but also Spanish, Mayan, or K'iche'. The site includes a page of dozens of popular songs

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and jazz standards with mostly cloze or jumble exercises, organized by level of difficulty. Access the songs through the site map. This site is mentioned in Meaghan Harding's "Karaoke Presentations."

**Popullar** ([www.popullar.eu](http://www.popullar.eu)) is a European Union project targeted toward secondary school foreign language learners. It includes lists of materials for students and teachers, web tools, and both academic and nonacademic literature on the topic of music and language.

**Public Domain Information Project** ([www.pdinfo.com](http://www.pdinfo.com)) includes lists of public domain music and songs, royalty-free music, and information on copyright law. It is mentioned in Ildiko Porter-Szucs's activity.

**Putamayo World Music** ([www.putumayo.com](http://www.putumayo.com)) is a commercial source of a wide variety of world music CDs. Links to radio stations that air "The Putamayo World Music Hour" is included. This site is mentioned in Crystal Bock-Thiessen's "Weekly Worldly Warm-Up" activity.

**Quality Time ESL** ([www.qualitytime-esl.com](http://www.qualitytime-esl.com)), among many other resources, includes links to popular music videos that have subtitled lyrics. The site also includes activities for each of the songs. Meaghan Harding mentions this site in "Karaoke Presentations."

**Sing Out!** ([singout.org/news](http://singout.org/news)) is a magazine, available in print or digitally, whose goal is to keep folk music alive. The publication includes sheet music for recent songs by folk musicians and comes with a CD.

**Smithsonian Folkways** ([www.folkways.si.edu/folkways-recordings/smithsonian](http://www.folkways.si.edu/folkways-recordings/smithsonian)) has traditional and folk music from around the world in addition to "tools for teaching." This site is mentioned by Timothy R. Janda in "American History Through Folk Songs."

**The Songs to Teach English** blog ([songstoteachenglish.edublogs.org](http://songstoteachenglish.edublogs.org)) by contributor Sibel Taşkın Şimşek recently won the Edublog Awards 2014 for "Best Educational Use of Media."

**TED** ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)) has a constantly expanding range of talks. Do a search with the words "music in education," "music and language," or other combinations to discover interesting talks with interactive transcripts in various languages. The "Talks for Band Geeks" playlist ([www.ted.com/playlists/265/talks\\_for\\_former\\_band\\_geeks](http://www.ted.com/playlists/265/talks_for_former_band_geeks)) contains exclusively music-related talks.

**TEFL Tunes** ([www.tefltunes.com/grammarsongs.aspx](http://www.tefltunes.com/grammarsongs.aspx)) provides ideas and complete lessons (for a small subscription fee) for using music. You can search by grammar topic, theme, level, task type, and artist. Some lessons are free.

Kiss This Guy: **The Archive of Misheard Lyrics** ([www.kissthisguy.com](http://www.kissthisguy.com)) is a site full of misunderstood lyrics searchable by song title or artist. Chris Walklett mentions it in his activity "Lady Mondegreen Rides Again."

**Tune Into English** ([www.tuneintoenglish.com](http://www.tuneintoenglish.com)), created by contributor Fergal Kavenagh, contains a wealth of information and activities for both students and teachers who want to use pop songs for learning English.

**Voice of America** ([learningenglish.voanews.com](http://learningenglish.voanews.com)) provides many music-related English lessons. For example, "Studying Sentence Patterns to Improve Your Writing: Part One" includes music from Christina Aguilera, Queen, and the Beatles.

**"Your Brain on Music Education 101 to 110"** ([musicempowersfoundation.org/assets/pdf/brain-on-music-compilations/mef-brain-on-music-compilation-101-to-110-web.pdf](http://musicempowersfoundation.org/assets/pdf/brain-on-music-compilations/mef-brain-on-music-compilation-101-to-110-web.pdf)), found on the Music Empowers Foundation website, is a series of columns by Christopher Viereck examining the role of music in learning.